



# **PRESS NOTICE**

## **BILL NETTLES**

### **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

### **DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**January 26, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Florence Man Sentenced and Subject to Deportation**

**Columbia, South Carolina----** United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Esvin Ariel Merida-Morales, age 26, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was sentenced today in federal court in Florence, South Carolina, illegal reentry, a violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a)(2). United States District Judge Terry L. Wooten of Florence sentenced Merida-Morales to 5 months and 10 days, and is subject to deportation.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Merida-Morales was deported in April 2008, July 2008, and July 2010. On August 14, 2011, Merida-Morales was found at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center after being arrested for drinking alcohol in a public conveyance. Merida-Morales is a citizen of Guatemala and had not received permission to reenter the United States after his previous deportation

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) agents. Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II of the Florence office handled the case

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